

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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P R 241612Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3721
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1624

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UN
SUBJECT: SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON UNDOF

1. THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS
DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE (UNDOF) COVERING THE PERIOD
NOVEMBER 23, 1976 TO MAY 23, 1977 WAS ISSUED LATE ON MAY 23.
THE REPORT CONFORMS CLOSELY IN FORMAT AND CONTENT WITH
PREVIOUS REPORTS. THE "OBSERVATIONS" SECTION IS REPRODUCED
IN FULL IN PARA 3 BELOW. UNDER THE SECTION ENTITLED
"IMPLEMENTATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 338 (1973),"
THE SYG'S REPORT NOTES THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED
RESOLUTION 31/62 DECEMBER 9, 1976 CALLING FOR THE EARLY
CONVENING OF THE PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST. IT
CONTINUES, "IN EARLY 1977 I UNDERTOOK A VISIT TO THE MIDDLE
EAST IN THIS CONNECTION. THE RESULTS OF MY CONTACTS WITH
THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT AND WITH THE CO-CHAIRMEN OF THE
PEACE CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST ARE DESCRIBED
IN THE REPORT WHICH I SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY
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COUNCIL ON 28 FEBRUARY 1977 (S/12290). I AM MAINTAINING
CONTACTS WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED AND THE
CO-CHAIRMEN WITH THE VIEW OF GIVING EFFECT TO
RESOLUTION 338 (1973)."

2. QUESTION OF TIMING OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING TO EX-
TEND UNDOF REMAINS UNCERTAIN SINCE SYRIAN PERM REP ALLAF

AS OF MAY 23 HAS CONTINUED TO STATE THAT HE HAS NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS AS YET FROM DAMASCUS. SC PRESIDENT (BENIN) INDICATED TO WESTERN FIVE MAY 23 THAT HE IS CONTINUING TO WORK TOWARD A MEETING ON MAY 26 OR 27. EARLIER RUMOR (TRACED TO UN SECRETARIAT) THAT SYRIA MIGHT OPT FOR A MAY 31 MEETING CONTINUES TO CIRCULATE. MEANWHILE, AMB. ALLAF TOLD RICARD HOTTELET (CBS) ON MAY 23 THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT PREFER AN EXTENSION FOR ONLY THREE MONTHS. HOTTELET DESCRIBED ALLAF'S REMARK AS THE LATTER'S THINKING OUT LOUD IN CONTEXT OF POSSIBLE SYRIAN REACTION TO THE LIKUD VICTORY.

3. QUOTE

VI. OBSERVATIONS

30. THE UNITED NATIONS DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE, WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1974 TO SUPERVISE THE CEASE-FIRE CALLED FOR BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES, HAS CONTINUED TO PERFORM ITS FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE PARTIES. DURING THE PERIOD UNDER REVIEW, THE SITUATION IN THE AREA HAS REMAINED QUIET, AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO INCIDENTS OF SERIOUS NATURE.

31. THE PRESENT QUIET IN THE ISRAEL-SYRIA SECTOR SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE FACT THAT THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM REMAIN UNRESOLVED AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE AREA WILL CONTINUE TO BE UNSTABLE AND DANGEROUS UNLESS REAL PROGRESS CAN SOON BE MADE TOWARD A JUST AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. AS INDICATED
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EARLIER IN THIS REPORT, EFFORTS AT VARIOUS LEVELS ARE UNDER WAY TO FURTHER THIS GOAL. I MUST REITERATE MY BELIEF THAT UNLESS THE OPPORTUNITY IS SEIZED TO RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS IN A MEANINGFUL WAY, THERE WILL BE A GROWING AND SERIOUS DANGER THAT THE SITUATION WILL DETERIORATE ONCE AGAIN.

32. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL THE FACTORS INVOLVED, I CONSIDER THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF UNDOF IN THE AREA TO BE ESSENTIAL. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE FORCE FOR A FURTHER PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS UNTIL 30 NOVEMBER 1977.

33. IN CONCLUDING THIS REPORT, I WISH TO PLACE ON RECORD MY GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTING TROOPS TO UNDOF AND TO THOSE WHICH PROVIDE UNTSO MILITARY OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO THE FORCE. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO EXPRESS MY DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE COMMANDER OF UNDOF, MAJOR-GENERAL HANNES PHILIPP, TO THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE FORCE AND ITS CIVILIAN STAFF, AS WELL AS TO THE UNTSO MILITARY OBSERVERS ASSIGNED TO UNDOF. ALL OF THEM HAVE PERFORMED WITH

EXEMPLARY EFFICIENCY AND DEVOTION TO DUTY THE IMPORTANT, DIFFI-
CULT AND SOMETIMES DANGEROUS TASKS ASSIGNED TO THEM BY
THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IN THIS CONNEXION, I WISH TO PAY A
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MAJOR ERNST PELLEGRINI,
DEPUTY CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER, WHO WAS RECENTLY KILLED
IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES. HE WAS THE LATEST AMONG
THE BRAVE AND SELFLESS SOLDIERS WHO HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN THE
SERVICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE. UNQUOTE
LEONARD

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